

**Air Force Prime Time**, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, What's the Air Force doing in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia? How is the Air Force moving ahead in the 21st century? Why are we doing the missions we're doing these days?

## News briefs

### Limited postal service today

Local base post office service is limited today due to an official function.

Hours are:

#### Spangdahlem

■ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. parcel mailing and pick up. No official mail runs take place. Call Tech. Sgt. Kirk Baldwin at 452-6038 for more information.

#### Bitburg

■ 8-10 a.m. parcel mailing and pick up. No official mail runs take place. First class letters processed for dispatch to the United States.

Call Staff Sgt. Byron Jones at 453-9506 for more information.

### Staff sergeant list

#### RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

— Release of the Air Force's list of its newest staff sergeant promotees is scheduled Wednesday (Thursday for those units across the international dateline). This year's release comes almost a month earlier than last year's staff sergeant promotion list.

Air Force Personnel Center officials cite several reasons for this year's earlier release. Many will recall that last year the Air Force was in the midst of Operation Allied Force, and had numerous airmen deployed.

This year, partly because of reduced testing windows, AFPC was able to get most of the tests for staff sergeant eligibles processed and scored sooner. There are approximately 40,000 eligibles this year.

The promotion quota hasn't been determined yet, so the exact promotion percentage is not known at this time. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

### Officer promotion eligibility

Eligibility criteria for calendar year 2000 medical and dental promotions are listed.

Basic eligibility criteria for all grades includes extended active duty date of May 6, 2000 or earlier and a date of separation of Feb. 4 2001 or later.

#### For promotion to colonel:

Above the promotion zone requires a date of rank of May 31 1995 or earlier with a previous nonselection.

In the promotion zone requires a DOR of June 1 1995 through May 31, 1996.

Below the zone promotion requires a DOR of June 1 1996 through May 31, 1998.

#### For promotion to lieutenant colonel:

APZ requires a DOR of May 31, 1995 or earlier with a previous nonselection.

IPZ requires a DOR of June 1, 1995 through May 31, 1998.

BPZ requires a DOR of June 1 1996 through May 31, 1998.

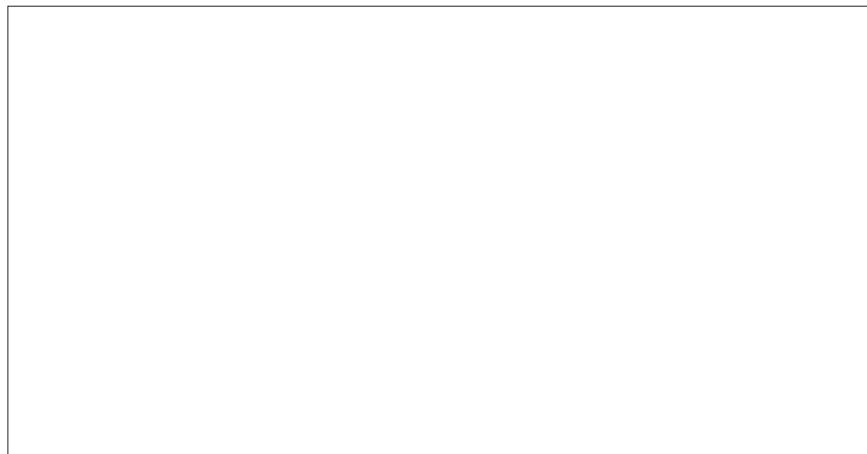
See Briefs, Page 2

# Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 25

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

July 14, 2000



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

### Focus, discipline, honor

Spangdahlem Honor Guard members Staff Sgt. Fred Beck, and Senior Airmen Scott Plocar, Mike Lewis and Julie Hoglund prepare to present the colors Tuesday at the 52nd Contracting Squadron assumption of command ceremony. The honor guard seeks volunteers to serve in this prestigious program. Call 452-6783 for details.

## Spang airmen, jets make history

By Capt. Glen Roberts  
Public Affairs

**33rd AIR FORCE BASE, MALACKY** -About 200 Spangdahlem airmen arrived in Malacky, Slovakia since Tuesday supporting the first-ever deployment of Air Force A/OA-10 Thunderbolt IIs to the nation.

The two-week deployment was made possible through a bi-lateral agreement between Slovakia and the United States for use of the nearby Kuchyna bombing range, the deployment will allow the A-10 pilots to expand training opportunities while strengthening friendly ties between the two nations, officials said.

"This is an opportunity that touches a lot of areas," said Lt. Col. John Costa, deployment commander. "It allows us to

improve our skills and gives us a chance to interact with the Slovaks."

Additionally, the trip is an opportunity to test the complete deployment process, said Capt. Bill James, deployment co-project officer.

"We'll be doing weapons delivery, and we'll get some surface attack training done," James said. "We're also putting the whole deployment system into work."

While the pilots receive the benefit of unique training opportunities, the Slovaks get additional funding for airfield and range operations, familiarization with U.S. pilots and hardware, and closer ties to the U.S. and possibly other NATO-member nations.

More than 25 career specialties from the wing are deployed in support of the

operation, including maintainers, weapons loaders, civil engineers and security forces. Most left in vehicle caravans throughout the week for the 14 hour drive to Malacky, while the remainder arrive today in C-130s.

Though this deployment of 8 A-10's marks the first trip to Slovakia for the "warhog," it is in fact the second time since April that Spangdahlem airmen have ventured to the region. More than 200 members of Spangdahlem's 23rd Fighter Squadron brought 10 F-16 CJs to the base in late March for the first of three two-week deployments planned for this year. The third deployment takes place in late fall.

## DOD clears Bronze Star decision

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Defense has finished its review of the criteria for the Bronze Star Medals awarded by the Air Force and Navy for Operation Allied Force, and determined both services awarded the medal properly and the recipients met the standards required.

The Air Force and Navy were well within the boundaries of precedents that had been set in past conflicts, including Vietnam, for awarding Bronze Stars according to Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon.

"We're obviously pleased and grateful to have such strong and definitive confirmation that our airmen deserve the medals they were awarded," said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. "Those great airmen awarded the Bronze Star Medal should rest assured that no one doubts their exceptional service and meritorious achievements in Operation Allied Force."

The issue was whether it was appropriate to issue Bronze Star Medals to troops who didn't actually enter the combat zone but may have been part of a combat team at some distance from the conflict, Bacon said during a recent Pentagon press briefing.

Although considered, historical precedent wasn't the only consideration for DOD's decision to affirm the services' awarding of the medal.

The Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Bernard D. Rostker also looked at the appropriateness of the awards and whether the services adhered to the regulations, Bacon said.

According to established criteria, the Bronze Star is

See Medal, Page 2

## Medal

Continued from Page 1

presented to people who have distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious service or achievement, not involving participation in aerial flight under any of the following circumstances:

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States

- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force and

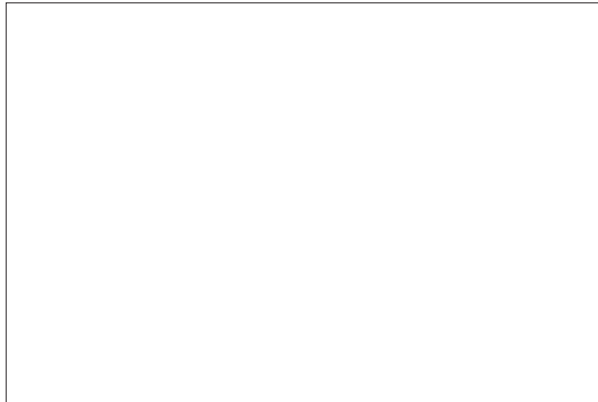
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States isn't a belligerent party.

In approving the Bronze Star Medal for

those serving outside the area of hostilities, the Air Force noted there are no geographical constraints for the medal listed in its executive order or the DOD manual.

Rostker found no reason to change the regulations and that the decision to award the medals was, Bacon said.

"I'm also pleased that Dr. Rostker has taken on the challenge of ensuring that all of the Department's medals and awards policies keep pace with the changing nature of warfare," said Peters. "That's vitally important to the Air Force as the evolution of the expeditionary aerospace force continues and aerospace integration increases our ability to fight and win while putting fewer and fewer people in harm's way."



Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

### General information

Capt. Shawn Franklin, 22nd Fighter Squadron assistant chief scheduler, reviews egress procedures with Gen. Gregory Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander. During the general's visit at Spangdahlem, he flew in an F-16 with the 22nd FS, presented a Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Bronze Medals, and offered squadron commanders and first sergeants leadership advice.

## Briefs

Continued from Page 1

### For promotion to major:

APZ requires a DOR of May 31, 1995 or earlier with a previous nonselection.

IPZ requires a DOR of June 1 1995 through May 31, 1996.

No BPZ to major.

### Enlistment bonus backlog fix

#### RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany

— Air Force personnel officials are taking extra care working through data system problems to ensure first-term airmen who are authorized enhanced enlistment bonuses get them when the Air Force promised.

The bonus is to be paid out 30 days after airmen arrive at their first duty assignment, but since the Air Force implemented the enhanced bonus program in August 1998, the personnel and finance systems have had problems with the change.

In February, 66 airmen in USAFE had not been paid, 49 of whom had been assigned to their base more than two months.

Airmen who enlisted in certain career fields are eligible for the Enhanced Initial Enlistment Bonus, which can range from \$1,000 to \$12,000, depending on length of enlistment and career field.

Although several updates have been made to both systems, military personnel flights still experience problems, Warner said. They must manually check all updates that are not accepted by the computer system to ensure the Air Force

Personnel Center corrects the record and the Defense Finance and Accounting Center makes the payment. (USAFE News Service)

### Routine ultrasounds halted

Routine ultrasound examinations performed at the 20-week mark are no longer provided by 52nd Medical Group Obstetrics. The change in service policy results from a lack of support of such testing by medical professionals and group manning shortages.

A list of local area providers providing non-diagnostic ultra-sounds is available at the TRICARE office. However, routine ultrasound service isn't covered by TRICARE.

Call the base obstetrics office at DSN 453-3161 or commercial 06561-3161 for more information.

### LANTIRN window technology could save millions of dollars

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** — Air Force Research Laboratory work will save the service millions of dollars in the next five years, as researchers found a way to better protect the transparent window on the low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night, or LANTIRN.

New research that AFRL's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate and industry scientists teamed up on will protect the LANTIRN from rain and sand erosion. LANTIRN systems are used aboard F-15 Eagle and F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft to get them and their crews to their targets and safely home again. The new research will significantly lower the

LANTIRN life cycle costs.

The bonded window, required to be highly transparent and extremely durable, will also enhance flight safety and improve system reliability, said Robert J. Ondercin, project manager and a leading materials research engineer at the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate.

Full-scale LANTIRN navigation and targeting pod transparencies are being fabricated in limited production and are currently undergoing flight testing aboard operational aircraft, said Karen Olson, a material engineer and flight test coordinator at the directorate. (Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)

### DeCA Europe Recalls bulbs

The Defense Commissary Agency Europe has removed two lots of 220/230 volt energy saving light bulbs from store shelves because they are believed to be a possible fire hazard. The two products are:

- GE Energy Saving 11 Watt Light Bulb - UPC 0043168366151

- GE Energy Saving 15 Watt Light Bulb - UPC 0043168362726

Shoppers who have purchased either of these light bulbs are asked to return them to their local commissary for a full refund. Refunds will be given even if the original packaging is no longer available.

There have been two incidents reported where the bulb has shorted out and smoldered. In neither case did the electrical circuit breaker trip.

The bulbs pose a potential fire hazard if a failure is not immediately detected and the circuit de-energized, said fire

department officials.

### AAFES recalls toy

**DALLAS** — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Today's Kids, of Dallas, is recalling more than 103,000 spinning ride toys.

A center column on the "Music & Lights Kidaround Spinner" can break, causing the child to suddenly fall backward, or be hit in the face by the broken column. Consumers should take these spinning ride toys away from children immediately.

A sticker on the center of the steering wheel reads, "Today's Kids." Customers should look for model number 916, Item 495406447, UPC 022983009160, and CRC 4456696.

The company has issued instructions for obtaining a free replacement spinning toy. Consumers should remove the bolt from the bottom of the spinner and throw away the washer found on the bolt. Next, unscrew the battery cover and cut the ribbon attaching the cover to the column of the toy. Then send the removed bolt and the battery cover in a standard envelope to: Today's Kids 13630 Neutron Road Dallas, TX 75244

Call (800)916-TOYS 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday CT or visit the firm's web site at [www.todayskids.com](http://www.todayskids.com) for more information.

# Child care fees may go up soon

Defense officials recently announced the range of fees for school-age child care programs for the 2000-2001 school year. Commanders may implement the fee ranges at anytime between Aug. 1 and Oct. 1.

Local base child care fees may increase by about \$1 to \$2 per child weekly upon the base commander's approval, said Thomas Stevens, Family Member Program Flight chief.

The potential cost increase is inline with the Department of Defense's annual child care fee hike in response to inflation and local labor wages.

"The Air Force requires us to break even," said Stevens. "A bulk of the cost increase supports child care provider wages to meet inflation rates as mandated by public law."

Depending on their total family income, local military families will pay between \$50 and \$114 per child weekly during the upcoming school year.

Parents fees represent about half the cost of providing child care, the remainder is paid with appropriated funds from Congress.

Child development centers aren't in business for profit. If a military child care center should happen to generate profit, the extra funds are used only for training and purchasing learning-activity consumable supplies, said Thomas.

"Our centers have made significant improvements to their programs over the last year and continue to grow stronger," said Maj. John Povelones, 52nd Services Squadron commander. "The addition of air conditioning in both centers and playground improvements for CDC building 440 have significantly improved the environments for our children. Additionally, the CDC managers have made significant strides in meeting the financial goals of operating on a break even basis."

For details on base child care, call the Spangdahlem center at 452-6697 or the Bitburg center at 452-7012. (Information contributed by Air Force Print News)

# More skills included on reworked SRB list

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — The Air Force has completed its latest review of the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program, again increasing the pool of eligibles by four skills.

Selective Reenlistment Bonuses are a key monetary incentive to encourage sufficient reenlistments in certain enlisted Air Force specialties to sustain career force objectives in those skills. These reviews are conducted semi-annually, normally in June and December, and involve a comprehensive review of all enlisted specialties.

The criteria used for determining which enlisted skills receive a bonus includes current and projected skill and total manning levels, reenlistment rates by SRB zone and category of enlistment, career field force structure changes, and inputs from individual functional career field managers.

Bonuses are authorized in 0.5 increments (or multiples) and in three reenlistment zones for personnel with between 17 months and 14 years of service.

The revised AFSC listing of SRB skills includes 56 zone A (17 months to 6 years of service), 43 zone B (6-10 years of service), and 12 zone C (10-14 years of service) multiplier increases; 8 zone A, 25

zone B, and 6 zone C additions, and 2 zone A and B multiplier decreases from the list published in January.

A total of 152 skills, approximately three-fourths of the Air Force skills, are now eligible for a bonus in one or more zones. This is a net increase of four skills from the previous list.

Three zone A and three zone B SRBs were deleted; and 10 new AFSCs were added in either zones A, B, C or some combination.

The additions and multiple increases were effective June 20. The SRB multiple decreases and deletions are effective July 31.

More information on the SRB program can be found at the Air Force Personnel Center's Enlisted Skills Web site [www.afpc.randolph-\(no hyphen\).af.mil/enlskills/](http://www.afpc.randolph-(no hyphen).af.mil/enlskills/).

Additional information can also be obtained from the base military personnel flight's reenlistment office at 452-7876. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

# Unbalanced work force could impact readiness

Legislative changes allowing early retirement considered one solution

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller  
Air Force Print News

**ROSSLYN, Va.** — The current civilian work force isn't meeting Air Force needs, which could lead to future readiness problems, said Air Force officials at a civilian workshop held here in June.

During the three-day workshop top civilian managers discussed force-shaping strategies and other issues facing the Air Force civilian work force.

"Our civilian work force is out of balance," said David Mulgrew, chief of the Air Force civilian force management division. "Our acquisition, scientific and technical work force is not being sustained with an adequate influx of new employees with current, state-of-the-art skills. The Air Force needs force-shaping legislation allowing the use of voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay without position abolishment or reduction in force."

According to Mulgrew, in the past 10 years there has been a 62 percent drop in the number of civilian employees with less than eight years of service, and 11 percent of all career employees are currently eligible for retirement.

"In five years, more than 45 percent of all civilian employees will be eligible for either optional or early retirement," he said.

Past reductions, made through a combination of loss programs such as early retirement authorities, separation incentive pay and limited hiring practices were not balanced across the civilian work force.

"We used voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentives to trim the senior year groups and to minimize involuntary actions such as reductions in force which are so devastating organizationally and individually," Mulgrew said.

Reductions due to changes in hiring and retention negatively affected the profile of an increasingly senior civilian work force. The drawdown was accomplished, in part, through limiting the number of new hires and offering incentives to junior and senior employees to separate, thus leaving a high percentage of employees who are rapidly approaching retirement eligibility.

The Air Force has developed a three-pronged strategy, which includes accession planning, force development and separation management, to address the need for force shaping and sustaining a quality civilian work force, however, help from Congress in the form of legislation is also desired.



Sue Sapp

Better incentive tools in the form of expanded voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay are being sought to help balance the work force.

"Better tools in the form of expanded VERA and VSIP are needed to stimulate and manage separations," said James Carlock, Air Force civilian work force shaping program manager.

Congress has responded by introducing legislative initiatives addressing the problem. An amendment sponsored by Ohio Sen. George Voinovich and attached to the National Defense Authorization Act proposes expanding VERA and VSIP, and allowing broader authority for tuition reimbursement.

"Separation incentive pay and early outs are currently authorized for force reduction situations to reduce the number of involuntary separations," Carlock said. "Expanding these tools will help balance the work force by giving incentives to workers in targeted occupations resulting in vacancies for trainee-level positions."

"This helps us move toward our objective of a balanced civilian force made up of the right mix of entry-, mid- and senior-level employees in our most needed skills," he said.

Allowing broader authority for tuition reimbursement will help the Air Force sustain the knowledge and skills needed in the civilian workforce, Carlock added.

The Department of Defense work force realignment initiative proposed by Voinovich would be effective Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2005. Under his proposal, employees may be offered VSIP up to \$25,000 each in either a lump sum payment or annual equal installments. Under current rules VSIP is offered only in a lump-sum amount.

A separate bill sponsored by Ohio Reps. Tony P. Hall and David L. Hobson provides a pilot program for temporary

**See Workforce, Page 4**

# Reservist and active duty cops share expertise

Fifteen 917th Wing Security Forces members provide wing forces exercise preparation time while wing forces provide reservists chance to test their knowledge and get hands-on law enforcement experience.

**Senior Airman Shannon Collins**  
917th Wing Public Affairs

As the loud voice boomed over the base, "exercise, exercise, exercise," Reservists and active duty security forces airmen donned protective gear and checked gates, patrolled the base for suspects and stayed alert.

Two rotations of Barksdale Air Force Base 917th Wing Reservists traveled to Spangdahlem in time for the Local Salty Nation exercise. From May 20 to June 3, the first rotation of 22 security forces Reservists stood guard with Spangdahlem's 52nd Security Forces Squadron. Fifteen 917th airmen replaced them from June 3-17. The Reservists helped the 52nd SFS in many ways.

"Without us, they would have been working 12-hour shifts two weeks ago," said Tech. Sgt. Lara Braddock, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 917th Security Forces Squadron. "With us here, they were able to have some extra time off before the LSN." During the exercise, both teams worked 12-hour shifts.

With the combination of reserve and active-duty, first term airmen worked side by side with the Barksdale NCOs while most of the 52nd NCOs are deployed for the air expeditionary force.

## Sharing expertise

"Working with the 917th was nothing but pleasant and professional," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Portillo, 52nd SFS. "They were always willing to help out in areas they were needed and share their experience with an airman heavy squadron."

"I enjoyed working with the 917th," said Airman First Class Jessica Ackerman, 52nd SFS. "They brought excellent leadership skills and very positive and professional attitudes. Braddock was a wonderful mentor for me. I appreciate all the helpful advice she gave me."

Though the Reservists offered the many airmen years of experience, they learned and experienced many situations for the first time.

"I executed my first apprehension in my eight year career. I have often been called upon to transport and/or search a military member, but have never apprehended anyone," said Braddock. "We were looking for a real world gate runner, and I was patrolling the Base Exchange for the runner when a shoplifting call came in. I apprehended the shoplifter and escorted her out."

## Rookies no more

Though many of the Reservists are civilian policemen, few have had the chance to patrol for law enforcement.

"The guys got to ride law enforcement on the military side, and it was exciting. It was an eye-opening experience," she said. "Also, many of our guys have been on several deployments but have never worked a flightline."

During the hours of MOPP levels and exercise scenarios, one 917th member with a shield and baton in hand experienced something unique—crowd control.

"At the gate, they had a protest that started out peaceful and ended up getting out of hand. The protestors started throwing water balloons and all kinds of stuff at us," said Senior Airman Jack Baker, 917th Security Forces Squadron policeman. "We formed a barrier between them and the base and started pushing them out. I was on the blocking force."

"We had some protestors break through, and they were 'jacked up' and handcuffed. We were armed in gear, had face shields on our Kevlar's and had shields and batons," he continued. "This was my first experience with crowd control. We were trained on it in technical school, but I don't think we've ever been able to implement the training."

## Enhanced mission capabilities

Throughout the deployment, the security forces airmen from both squadrons became professional comrades.

"I enjoyed it. It was a great learning experience," said

Shannon Collins

Tech. Sgt. Simmie Brown, 917th Wing Security Forces Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., "apprehends" Tech. Sgt. Lara Braddock, 917th SFS during a two week exercise held here in June.

Baker of the experience. "It's always great when you get to work with other security forces people at the different bases. It's real interesting to get to work with them and see how they do things. You get to deal with the host nation, their civilian police officers and the security forces here."

"I think the language barrier was a good training exercise to teach our airmen how to approach people in different countries and how to interact with them without being uncomfortable," said Braddock. "In a hostile situation, it will be difficult, so it's good that we got to learn this lesson in a peace time situation. The 52nd SFS airmen were great, and this trip gave me the opportunity to get closer to my troops."

## Workforce

Continued from Page 3

authority to offer VSIP and VERA to a maximum of 1,000 Air Force employees annually from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2003, and offers a lump-sum payment option only.

"Both of these bills allow us to shape portions of the work force," said Leif Peterson, director of civilian personnel for the Air Force Materiel Command, which projects nearly 40,000 civilian employees will be eligible for early or optional retirement within the next five years. "The Senate version is a little broader and has

better application for us because the coverage period is longer and the costs to the agency appear to be less, but they are both a step in the right direction."

The Air Force also needs legislation to streamline hiring practices, said Peterson.

"The one instrument that has the broadest application, is a streamlined hiring authority," he said. "We have dated hiring authorities now that are cumbersome. We need one that addresses the competitive market-place, but still complies with public policy requirements."

## Aerospace update

### Air Force evaluates satellites

**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** — Each of the world's orbiting satellites are being evaluated for their vulnerability to lasers.

"The work we're doing in response to this new defense directive reflects two factors: There's an increasing number of satellites in space, and some of these satellites are particularly vulnerable to laser radiation," said Capt. Brian Oelrich, Satellite Assessment Center Optical Analysis Group chief. "When you couple this vulnerability to the increased use of DOD high-energy lasers, actions were needed to prevent inadvertent laser damage to these satellites."

High-energy lasers in development include the U.S. Air Force's Airborne Laser and Space Based Laser, and the U.S. Army's Tactical High Energy Laser. Other lasers are used for detection, ranging, tracking, communications, calibration and imaging.

Any Department of Defense agency wanting to fire a laser above the horizon must first get permission from U.S. Space Command's Laser Clearing House

Analysis for each satellite and scenario can be costly. To help minimize this cost in the future, the center is also developing software upgrades that will give U. S. Space Command the ability to screen satellites in-house. (Courtesy of AFRL Public Affairs)



# PCS simplification initiatives aimed at solving moving woes

By Rudi Williams  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is simplifying its permanent-change-of-station process making it easier and less expensive for more than 700,000 service members and their family members who move around the world each year.

The initiative is targeted at scrapping mountains of paperwork, eliminating out-of-pocket expenses and creating a user-friendly, Internet-based, personalized relocation system.

Under the plan, that includes proposals before Congress, service members would be offered no-receipt-required, lump-sum payment for temporary lodging expenses and temporary lodging allowances, said Stephen Rossetti, director of the Defense Integrated Travel and Relocation Solutions Office in Arlington, Va.

One of the biggest concerns is out-of-pocket expenses for PCS moves, said Rossetti. According to surveys, 85 percent of the people who move are dissatisfied with the relocation process. They're upset because their household goods are lost or destroyed and they waste a lot of time in-processing at the library, veterinarian, commissary, personnel office and a host of other places. It's estimated that more than

40,000 man-hours are wasted each year in-and-out-processing.

The simplification plan will incorporate the "one-stop-shopping concept," with the Internet as the integrator.

"I will also have a personalized Web page outfitted with instructions and 'prepopulated' forms showing the service member's name, family members, entitlements and answers to questions," Rossetti said.

"We want to have the computer take care of service members during their move," he said. "We have something working in the lab called P-3 Quantum a personal PCS page. When you key your name, social security number and PIN number into the system, your personal profile comes up. The computer knows, based on our manpower database, who you are, how many kids you have and all the other information that used to go on nearly 100 forms."

The Internet enables relocation personnel to tailor the PCS process to fit each individual's moving situation, said Rossetti. When the personal profile is validated, the traveler keys in the "from/to" destination and the computer will tell them how much money they'll get for the move. If they select the lump sum option, the

money will be electronically transferred to the service member's bank account.

Preparing for household goods shipments will also be simplified by taking the guesswork out of figuring weight allowances, Rossetti added. Information about updating drivers licenses, passports, drivers manuals from foreign countries, settling claims, the defense travel system, entitlements, per diem rates and other information needed for a PCS move will also be included.

Several projects are under way concerning household goods moves, including the Full Service Movement Project.

"It will be a virtual moving experience. If we can't be like Star Trek and beam you to your new location, we hope to come close."

Current PCS information is available on the Air Force's Crossroads Web site, [www.afcross-\(no hyphen\)roads.com](http://www.afcross-(no hyphen)roads.com).

Local PCS information is available by calling the 52nd Mission Support Squadron Outbound Assignments section at DSN 452-6817, commercial at 06565-616817 or e-mail Staff Sgt. Deanna Solgat, outbound assignments, at [deanna.solgat@spang-\(no hyphen\)dahlem.af.mil](mailto:deanna.solgat@spang-(no hyphen)dahlem.af.mil).

## Keep meat, perishables below 40 F

By Airman Angela Cody  
Public Health Flight

Summer's here, and a lot of people enjoy cooking out during this warm and sunny time of the year.

It's really disappointing, however, when your wonderful day ends with illness because the "chef" didn't safely prepare or serve your food.

Here are some easy to follow steps to keep your barbecue safe and healthy.

### Purchasing perishables

When grocery shopping, put meat and other perishables in the cart last. After purchase, load the perishables into an air conditioned car, rather than the trunk, unless you use a cooler with ice.

Although the drive may be short, all the time perishables remain at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the germs multiply. So keep the food cold until cooking.

### Defrosting

Defrost meats before grilling so it will cook evenly. It's recommended to use the refrigerator for slow, safe thawing versus leaving it on the counter because bacteria grows more rapidly at room temperature.

When cooking, only take out the amount that will fit on the grill.

### Preparation

Prepare the food as close to dinner time as possible. This reduces the time foods remain at unsafe temperatures, and reduces the time germs have to grow.

More importantly, cook all meats thoroughly inside and out.

Make sure there's plenty of clean single service utensils and platters. Using the same platter to handle raw and cooked meats allows the germs to be passed from one thing to another.

Along with undercooking, this is also one of the leading causes of foodborne illness during the summer.

Remember, summer cookouts can become a summer nightmare, if food isn't safely handled and prepared. Call Public Health at 452-8338 or 452-8328 for more information.

## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Bitburg Castle

Today

#### Big Momma's House (R)

When an undercover cop is sent to Georgia to protect a single mother and her son, he adopts the identity of "Big Momma."

Saturday

#### Big Momma's House

Sunday

#### My Dog Skip (PG)

In 1942, Willie is a shy eight year old boy in Yazoo, Mississippi. On Willie's birthday he receives a puppy. With canine help, Willie becomes "one of the boys." Some violent content and mild language.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

#### The Next Best Thing (PG-13)

Abbie and Robert are best friends with a lot in common. However, a twist of fate makes them parents. Theirs may not be the perfect family, but it is the next best thing. Mature thematic elements, sexual content, partial nudity and language.

Thursday

#### Keeping the Faith (PG-13)

Best friends since they were children, Rabbi Jacob and Father Brian are dynamic and popular young men living and working in New York. When Anna, once their childhood friend, suddenly returns to the city, sparks fly and a love triangle ensues. Some sexuality and language.

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

#### Gone in Sixty Seconds (PG-13)

Randall "Memphis" Raines is a car thief of legendary proportion. When the heat became too intense, he abandoned his life of crime to find a different life. When his kid brother tries to follow in his footsteps Memphis is sucked back into his old ways. Violence, sexuality and language.

Saturday

#### Gone in Sixty Seconds

Sunday

#### Erin Brockovich (R)

Monday

#### U571 (PG-13)

A team of U.S. soldiers are sent on a mission to sneak aboard a disabled German U-Boat (a submarine) to steal an encryption device that would give the Allies the edge they need to win the war. What happens next puts 9 American sailors stranded on a Nazi sub in the middle of enemy waters. War violence.

Tuesday

#### Love and Basketball (PG-13)

A story of friendship, rivalry and ultimately, the give and take of a one-on-one relationship, Monica and Quincy share a nearly unquenchable passion for basketball. Sexuality and language.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 453-7541.

# AFRC Europe starts accepting holiday reservations for 2000

## Experience Bavarian holiday by reserving one of three packages

By Kimber Fox  
AFRC Europe marketing assistant

**GARMISCH AND CHIEMSEE, Germany** - Now's the time to start planning holiday vacations at Armed Forces Recreation Center Resorts in Europe.

Three value added packages during three different weeks offer the opportunity to experience a Bavarian holiday. The packages apply to both the Garmisch and Chiemsee resorts. Only packages can be reserved. No single-room nights are available.

### Snow Seekers Surprise

■Includes five nights, six breakfasts, one holiday dinner, a reception and "holiday surprises" Dec. 17-22.

Cost is \$599 for two adults, age 16 and older; \$49 children ages 5-15; children under 5 are free.

Optional four-day ski package is \$199.00 per adult, \$159.00 per child, includes four days of instruction, equipment and clothing, trans-portion to ski area and lift passes.

### Very Merry Bavarian Holiday

■Same as package above Dec. 22-27.

### 2001: A Vacation Odyssey

■Same as package above Dec. 27 to Jan. 1

This year a lottery system has been implemented for all reservations. Reservations are limited to three rooms per sponsor. The easiest way to submit a request

Garmisch resort offers ski and snowboarding programs, and local-area tours.

is to visit the AFRC Web site at [www.afrc-europe.com](http://www.afrc-europe.com).

People may also fill out a form and fax it to 08821-3942 or mail it to AFRC Europe, Vacation Planning Center, Unit 24501, APO AE 09053 or Lazerettstr 7, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Only forms sent via the Web site, mail, fax or e-mail are accepted.

One entry is allowed per family. Submission deadline is Aug. 6 (postal mail must be postmarked by this day). The lottery drawing takes place Aug. 12. People selected will receive a confirmation letter mailed Aug. 18. Reservations can be canceled without penalty no later than Oct. 1. All entries not selected are put on a waiting list.

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers in Europe are changing their holiday

reservation system this year. By offering packages, more families will be able to use AFRC-E facilities.

"This year more than 1,000 families will be able to spend the holidays at AFRC," said Richard LeBrun, AFRC-E general manager. "Our packages are designed to give our guests the ultimate vacation experience."

"Holidays are a fun time and we want the season to start off smoothly," said Mark Hendryx, AFRC-E operations director. "The lottery system is more customer friendly and much easier on our guests."

The Vacation Planning Center is also taking reservations for all other times. E-mail, fax, or call DSN 440-2575 or 8821-72981 to reserve additional times.

Courtesy photo

# Was ist los

■Look into the future at the world exposition in Hanover — EXPO 2000 — through October 31.

■Enjoy the 1,000-kilometer Le Mans race Saturday and Sunday at the Nuerburgring race track.

■Roads between Kyllburg and Gerolstein close to all motor traffic 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 16. The event is called Kylltal Aktiv.

■Learn about the history of the Titanic at the Bitburg Beda Haus cultural center through Aug. 5. The display is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Cost is 9 DM for adults and 7 DM for children. Visit [www.titanic-on-\(no hyphen\)line.de](http://www.titanic-on-(no hyphen)line.de) for details.

■Travel with five people for one day throughout the entire state of Rheinland-

Pfalz for 35 DM. Visit a local train station for more information about this pass.

■Visit a flea market Sunday in front of the Kenn Wal Mart store; at the Trier Moselauen fairgrounds; in front of the Stadtkyll REWE center; inside and outside the Trier-Feyen Flohmarkt hall; along the Uerzig Mosel shore and in front of the Idar-Oberstein Globus Handelshof store, located on B-41.

■Attend the 11th European Balloon Festival in Bernkastel-Kues Aug. 11-13. Balloon rides are available and reservations can be made by calling 06531-508636.

■Enjoy the 2000 Rheinland-Pfalz Days Aug. 4-6 in Mainz. The event features the largest festival of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz with music, parades,

food and entertainment. Entry is free. Visit [www.rlp.de](http://www.rlp.de) for details.

■Enjoy the Nature One 2000 open-air-concert featuring more than 150 bands to include Phats & Small, Mark Spoon, Westbam, Taucher, Blank & Jones and Tom Wax. The event takes place July 28-29 in Kastellaun, located in the Hun-srueck area. Tickets can be obtained from local Bundespost offices including the one on base.

■Visit the annual Nuer-burgring Truck Grand Prix festival today through Sunday at the Nuerburgring race track. The event features truck races, country music, Action-Stunt-Shows and more. Tickets are 154 DM and can be obtained through any German Bundespost office.

■Participate in a 10K - 5th Konz city run Saturday, at 6:30 p.m. Call

Henner Helfrich at 06501-7440 for details.

■Plan to participate in the 13th Ralingen Sauertal run July 29, at 6 p.m. Call 06585-95066 for details.

■Listen to a modern jazz concert by Flat Panel, July 20 at the Trier Brunnenhof courtyard, located close to the Porta Nigra. On schedule is music by the Brecker Brothers, Kenny Wheeler and compositions by a group which comes from the nearby state of Saarland.

■Enjoy a day at Europe's newest theme park - Six Flags - in Holland, Aug. 5. An all day pass and transportation are \$60 for adults, children's fares vary. Call Adrienne Williams at 452-6487, 6696 or 0172-682-2284 for details.